

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend Claims 4, 8, and 12 as follows. The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A method ~~of accessing~~ for a software application of a first format to access external data of a format different from the first format, comprising:

receiving a transaction infrastructure object requesting data;

receiving a data service transaction name;

retrieving a data service transaction corresponding to the data service transaction name;

converting the transaction infrastructure object into a different format using an input element of the data service transaction;

sending the converted transaction infrastructure object to a data source;

obtaining the ~~requested~~ data from the data source; [[and]]

transforming the data into a transaction infrastructure response object using an output element of the data service transaction; and

retrieving the transaction infrastructure response object to be accessed by a Web page or a Web service.

Claim 5 (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of transforming the data into a transaction infrastructure response object includes

- transforming the data into an XML format; and
- transforming the XML format into a .NET response object.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the transaction infrastructure object includes at least one of a .NET object, Java Bean and Java Enterprise Edition.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the transaction infrastructure response object includes at least one of a .NET object, Java Bean and Java Enterprise Edition.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a software application of a first format ~~computer~~ to access external data of a format different from the first format, said control logic comprising:

- computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive a transaction infrastructure object requesting data;

- computer readable program code means for causing the computer to receive a data service transaction name;

- computer readable program code means for causing the computer to retrieve a data service transaction corresponding to the data service transaction name;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to convert the transaction infrastructure object into a different format using an input element of the data service transaction;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to send the converted transaction infrastructure object to a data source;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to obtain the requested data from the data source; [[and]]

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to transform the data into a transaction infrastructure response object using an output element of the data service transaction; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to retrieve the transaction infrastructure response object to be accessed by a Web page or a Web service.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to transform the data into an XML format; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to transform the XML format into a .NET response object.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the transaction infrastructure object includes at least one of a .NET object, Java Bean and Java Enterprise Edition.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the transaction infrastructure response object includes at least one of a .NET object, Java Bean and Java Enterprise Edition.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a software application of a first format to access external ~~accessing~~ data of a format different from the first format, comprising:

means for receiving a transaction infrastructure object requesting data;

means for receiving a data service transaction name;

means for retrieving a data service transaction corresponding to the data service transaction name;

means for converting the transaction infrastructure object into a different format using an input element of the data service transaction;

means for sending the converted transaction infrastructure object to a data source;

means for obtaining the ~~requested~~ data from the data source; [[and]]

means for transforming the data into a transaction infrastructure response object using an output element of the data service transaction; and

means for retrieving the transaction infrastructure response object to be accessed by a Web page or a Web service.